



NISC NEWETTER

U.S. Department of the Interior • Office of the Secretary (OS/SIO/NISC) • 1849 C Street, N.W. • Washington, DC 20240
 Phone: (202) 513-7243 • Fax: (202) 371-1751 • www.invasivespecies.gov

March 2012

News and Announcements

THANKS TO ALL THAT MADE NISAW A SUCCESS!

National Invasive Species Awareness Week or NISAW was from Feb. 26 to March 2, 2012. Over 800 people participated in Kids Invasive Species Day at the U.S. Botanic Garden. State, local, tribal and federal officials as well as representatives of business, environmental groups, private citizens participated at events held at Main Interior, the Department of Agriculture and the Hamilton Crowne Plaza Hotel. Over 100 people from across the U.S. participated. Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy and International Affairs, Lori Faeth, Catherine Woteki, USDA Under Secretary for Research, Education and Economics, John Goss, White House Council on Environmental Quality's Asian Carp Director, and Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Lawrence J. Gumbiner provided opening presentations. The first ever National Invasive Species Awards were presented on behalf of NISC, ANSTF and FICMNEW. The Chief of the USDA Forest Service also gave out invasive species awards. US Fish and Wildlife Service Director Dan Ashe addressed more than 300 people attending the NISAW/AFWA Reception celebrating wildlife on Capitol Hill about the importance of preventing the introduction of invasive animals. The Defenders of Wildlife hosted a discussion of invasive species topic for the National Environmental Coalition on Invasive Species at their headquarters. More than 140 people attended the Grassroots Invasive Species Forum and Webinar via the internet; and prevention and international cooperation topics were extensively reviewed. In addition, the National Park Service hosted the first ever Urban Invasive Species Forum. Many states and localities hosted their own invasive species events. The outcomes of these discussions are being pulled together for a report which will be posted on www.invasivespecies.gov and www.nisaw.org. Thanks to the MANY people, agencies and organizations who made NISAW happen!!

2012 National Invasive Species Awards on behalf of FICMNEW, ANSTF, ANS Regional Panels, NISC and ISAC presented on March 1, 2012 during NISAW 2012

Peg Brady of the National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration presented the first ever National Invasive Species Awards on behalf of the National Invasive Species Council, the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task force, the ANS Regional Panels, the Invasive Species Advisory Committee and the Federal Interagency

Committee on the Management of Noxious and Exotic Weeds. Five awards were presented to the following worthy recipients! Congratulations to all the winners and nominees. A longer announcement will be issued shortly, which will include a list of all those nominated.

Award winners are as follows:

1) **Elizabeth Brown**, Colorado State Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) Coordinator is this year's recipient of the Outstanding Invasive Species Leadership Award of 2012 for aquatic species. She is from Denver, Colorado. She has been tireless in her efforts to stop the spread of Dreissenid mussels in the waters of Colorado.

2) **Dr. Susan Meyer**, Research Ecologist for the Shrub Sciences Laboratory is this year's recipient of the Outstanding Invasive Species Leadership Award of 2012 for terrestrial species. She is from Provo, Utah. Dr. Meyer pioneered the effort to develop a biocontrol that is capable of removing banks of ungerminated seeds.

3) **Noel Bassett**, American Steamship Company (ASC) is this year's recipient of the Outstanding Invasive Species Volunteer Award of 2012. He is from Williamsville, New York. Noel Bassett has demonstrated innovation, creativity, and courage in creating a successful coalition with numerous nontraditional partners through a complex network of scientists and organizations.

4) **Doug Jensen**, Aquatic Invasive Species Program Coordinator for the Minnesota Sea Grant is this year's recipient of the Outstanding Achievement in Invasive Species Outreach and Education Award of 2012 for aquatic species. He is from Duluth, Minnesota. Doug has developed hundreds of watch cards that are used to educate the public about aquatic invasive species; as a result of these cards, many cases of aquatic invasive species have been reported and additional control programs have been created to combat AIS.

5) **The Forest Pest Outreach and Survey Project**, from Wallingford, Connecticut, is this year's recipient for the Outstanding Achievement in Invasive Species Outreach and Education Award of 2012 for terrestrial species. The project involves federal and state agencies dealing with forestry and agriculture working with nongovernmental partners to produce a comprehensive, coordinated re-

Special points of interest:

- NISAW
- 2012 NATIONAL INVASIVE SPECIES AWARDS

Inside this issue:

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS	1-2
IN THE NEWS	2-4
GRANTS	4
JOB OPPORTUNITIES	4
CONFERENCES	5
MISCELLANEOUS	5



gion-wide forest pest outreach and detection program.

In The News

With programs primed, funding is the hurdle in battling pests, official says

Allison Winter, E&E reporter

March 1, 2012: Obama administration officials hope to ramp up spending to combat invasive species in future federal budgets, a top White House official said this week, and are armed with a new data tool to inform their efforts.

John Goss, who manages Asian carp programs at the White House Council on Environmental Quality, told a meeting of invasive species experts that leaders of his agency have discussed the need for greater investment in invasive species -- but the money is not there in the current, tight fiscal climate.

"We have had conversations about how woefully inadequate the resources are for combating invasive species across the board," Goss said of talks with his boss, CEQ Chairwoman Nancy Sutley. "I want you to know top policy officials are having these discussions. These are tight budget times, but when the sun shines a little brighter on the budget, we'll be ready."

Goss made the remarks at a summit in Washington for National Invasive Species Awareness Week, where representatives from federal agencies repeatedly noted the challenges of trying to address a growing invasion of pests and weeds. To read the entire article, go to: <http://www.eenews.net/Landletter/2012/03/01/4>

Greens Renew Threat to Sue EPA Over Ballast Water

Greenwire - Paul Quinlan, E&E reporter

February 21, 2012: Environmentalists today threatened to sue U.S. EPA again unless the agency enacts tougher requirements than those it proposed last fall for regulation of ballast water, which can carry invasive species into waterways such as the Great Lakes.

EPA unveiled regulations that would require ship operators to cleanse ballast water of living aquatic organisms to a standard generally consistent with those set by the International Maritime Organization in 2004.

Shipping and other industry groups applauded the proposal. But environmentalists who had sued to force EPA's hand criticized it as a capitulation ([Greenwire](http://www.eenews.net/Greenwire/2012/02/21/16), Dec. 1, 2011). To read the entire article, go to: <http://www.eenews.net/Greenwire/2012/02/21/16>

House panel to consider bill to keep snakes off a plane

John McArdle, E&E reporter

February 28, 2012: Just weeks after the Obama administration issued a final rule to ban the importation and interstate transport of four nonnative constrictor snakes that have wreaked havoc on the Everglades, the House Judiciary Committee will take up a bill that would put the squeeze on five additional slithering reptiles.

The rule, announced by Interior Secretary Ken Salazar on Jan. 17, effectively bans the Burmese python, yellow anaconda, and northern and southern African pythons by labeling them as "injurious" wildlife under the Lacey Act. And while Rep. Tom Rooney (R-Fla.) said he certainly believes those snakes are a threat to Florida ecosystems, he has also criticized the new rule as a "half measure" that "will not do nearly enough" to protect the Everglades.

Rooney wants the reticulated python, green anaconda, Beni or Bolivian python, DeSchaunensee's anaconda and boa constrictor to be added to the Lacey Act list, and the bill he first introduced last year would do just that. To read the entire article, go to: <http://www.eenews.net/EEDaily/2012/02/28/15>

Insects could wipe out Ariz.'s citrus crops

Greenwire

February 27, 2012: U.S. customs officials in Arizona are actively searching for the Asian citrus psyllid when people cross the border from Mexico.

The disease-carrying bug is the most-feared insect for the state's \$46 million citrus industry. The bug, smaller than the tip of a pencil and hard to detect, has the potential to decimate commercial citrus groves, which are the fourth-largest in the country. The bug also could wipe out citrus trees grown in backyards and in neighborhoods.

Customs officers have received special training to look for citrus fruits and plants for inspection. Customs agricultural specialists are also trained to identify and detect the bugs. To read entire article, go to: <http://www.eenews.net/Greenwire/2012/02/27/30>



Meet the Invasive Species Challenge. Know the NISC Plan, Manage the Problem. **PREPARE, PREVENT, PROTECT.**

President's budget would change how USDA funds IPM

Northeastern IPM Center

Proposed "crop protection program" joins six funding lines

The President's FY2013 budget for USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (released Feb. 13, 2012) proposes consolidation of six IPM-related funding lines into a single line called the "Crop Protection Program." This new program, to be administered under Integrated Activities, is designed to enhance NIFA's ability to support research, education, and extension activities needed to ensure global food security and respond to other major societal challenges.

Details of the funding line changes are explained in the document [FY 2013 Budget Explanatory Notes for the National Institute of Food and Agriculture](http://www.northeastipm.org/ipm-in-action/current-news/presidents-budget-would-change-how-usda-funds-ipm/) (pdf), which says the new program "will provide support for projects that respond to pest management challenges with coordinated region-wide and national research, education and extension programs, and serve as a catalyst for promoting further development and use of IPM approaches. The program will also foster regional and national team building efforts, communication networks, and enhanced stakeholder participation" (p. 17-81). To read entire article, go to: <http://www.northeastipm.org/ipm-in-action/current-news/presidents-budget-would-change-how-usda-funds-ipm/>

Federal government sets aside \$50M to fight Asian carp

Greenwire

February 23, 2012: The Obama administration is planning to spend about \$50 million this year to try to keep voracious Asian carp out of the Great Lakes, officials said today ahead of an official announcement.

An updated federal strategy for preventing an invasion includes first-time water sampling to determine whether the fish have already established a foothold in Lakes Michigan and Erie, the officials said. The strategy also includes increased trapping and netting of the fish in rivers that provide access to the lakes, as well as an initial field test of chemicals that could be used to lure carp to areas where they could be captured, officials said. The plan also calls for testing an acoustic water gun that could scare the carp away from critical spots.

"This strategy builds on the unprecedented and effective plan we are implementing to keep Asian carp out of the Great Lakes while we determine the best long-term solution," said John Goss, who directs the Asian carp program for the White House Council on Environmental Quality. To read the entire article, go to: <http://www.eenews.net/Greenwire/2012/02/23/22>

USDA Strengthens Service for America's Agricultural Exporters

APHIS Announces Improvements to its Phytosanitary Certificate and Issuance Tracking System

February 16, 2012: WASHINGTON, DC—America's agricultural exporters play a vital role in building an economy that continues to grow, innovate and out-compete the rest of the world. Farm exports in fiscal year (FY) 2011 showed record growth, reaching a high of \$137.4 billion, and supported 1.15 million jobs here on the home front. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) supports trade and economic growth by continually striving to improve services for American exporters.

To that end, APHIS is making several improvements to its Phytosanitary Certificate and Issuance Tracking (PCIT) system. In the coming months, PCIT will begin automatically transferring phytosanitary certificates to foreign countries receiving U.S. exports, reducing previous delays associated with paperwork verification. In addition, APHIS is expanding the availability of user-printed phytosanitary certificates, eliminating the need for users to pay for shipped documents. To read entire article, go to: http://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/USDAAPHIS/2012/02/21/file_attachments/96358/exporters.pdf

CBP Keeps Valentine's Flowers Bug Free

February 2, 2012: WASHINGTON, DC—As Valentine's Day approaches, U.S. Customs and Border Protection flower inspection increases as hundreds of millions of flowers are imported into the U.S. for the season. At ports of entry, CBP agriculture specialists ensure that plant pests and plant diseases are detected and prevented from being introduced into the U.S. where they could cause harm to our flower industry, our agriculture and our economy.

"CBP agriculture specialists are on the frontline, protecting U.S. agriculture and natural resources from foreign origin plant pests and diseases at our nation's borders," said Kevin Harriger, executive director for CBP's Agriculture Programs and Trade Liaison office. "CBP also facilitates the processing of trade to ensure global economic competitiveness."

During the 2011 Valentine's Day season from Jan. 1 to Feb. 14, CBP agriculture specialists prevented the entry of 3,400 plant pests hitchhiking on cut flower imports. To read the entire article, go to: http://cbp.gov/xp/cgov/newsroom/news_releases/national/02022012_2.xml



Meet the Invasive Species Challenge.

Know the NISC Plan, Manage the Problem.

PREPARE, PREVENT, PROTECT.



Elephants could help prevent bushfires, expert says

By Science Online's Anna Salleh, and staff

February 02, 2012: Australia could introduce large herbivores such as elephants as part of a radical biological solution to the problem of bushfires and invasive species, says one expert.

The argument is laid out in a provocative commentary from Dr David Bowman, a professor of environmental change biology at the [University of Tasmania](http://www.universityoftasmania.edu.au), and is published in today's issue of [Nature](http://www.nature.com).

"I'm being as provocative as possible to try and wake everybody up to say, 'Look, what is currently happening is not sustainable. We have to think outside the square,'" Dr Bowman said. To read entire article, go to: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2012-02-02/call-to-bring-elephants-to-australia/3806314>

Lake Tahoe Boating Fees Rise After 'good year' for Stopping Invasive Species

By Adam Jensen, Tahoe Daily Tribune

January 26, 2012: LAKE TAHOE — Boaters will need to open their wallets a little bit wider before launching at Lake Tahoe this summer.

The Tahoe Regional Planning Agency's Governing Board approved fee increases for mandatory aquatic invasive species inspections Wednesday.

The average boater will pay an additional \$10 or \$11 for a year of boating on Lake Tahoe under the new rate structure, said Dennis Zabaglo, TRPA's watercraft program manager. To read the entire article, go to: <http://www.tahoebonanza.com/article/20120126/NEWS/120129947/1061&ParentProfile=1050>

Grant Opportunities

The Department of Defense's (DoD) Environmental Security Technology Certification Program (ESTCP) is soliciting propos-

als for demonstrations of environmental technologies.

- **DOD ORGANIZATIONS:** The DoD Call for Proposals requests pre-proposals related to: (1) Environmental Restoration; (2) Munitions Response; (3) Resource Conservation; and (4) Weapons Systems and Platforms.
- **BAA and NON-DOD FEDERAL ORGANIZATIONS:** The Broad Agency Announcement (BAA) and Non-DoD Federal Call for Proposals request pre-proposals responding to the following topics only: (1) Management of Contaminated Groundwater; (2) Characterization, Control, and Treatment of Testing and Training Range Contamination; (3) Military Munitions Detection, Classification, and Remediation; (4) Watershed Management Models/Tools for DoD Installation Applications; and (5) Demonstration/Validation of Alternatives to Cadmium Plating in Manufacturing and Maintenance of Weapons Systems. The deadline is March 15, 2012. For more information, please go to: www.serdp-estcp.org/Funding-Opportunities/ESTCP-Solicitations

Federal Job Opportunities

**State of Washington
Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
invites applications for the position of:
1662-12 Env Spec 2**

SALARY: \$2,769.00 - \$3,614.00 Monthly

OPENING DATE: 03/05/12

CLOSING DATE: 03/16/12 05:00 PM

DESCRIPTION: This recruitment is to fill a fulltime, permanent position located in the Natural Resources Building in Olympia.

This position assists the lead staff for ballast water management in meeting compliance, enforcement, and data objectives for regulating a state, national, and international shipping industry to ensure that the discharge of ballast water poses minimal risk of introducing invasive species into the Puget Sound, Columbia River, and coastal ports. The position must have specialized knowledge of the shipping industry and work effectively with ballast water inspectors, multi-national vessel owners and operators, and federal and state agencies.

To apply for this position you MUST complete your profile at www.careers.wa.gov and attach the following to your profile before completing the online application:

- A cover letter describing how you meet the qualification of his position (generic cover letters will not be accepted)
- A current resume (please make it succinct)
- Three professional references (personal references do not count as professional references)



Meet the Invasive Species Challenge. Know the NISC Plan, Manage the Problem. PREPARE, PREVENT, PROTECT.

Conferences

March 18-23, 2012: The Yale Global Institute of Sustainable Forestry's "Executive Education in Forestry" is being held at Yale University in New Haven, CT. Please go to: <http://environment.yale.edu/gisf/mid-career-courses/executive-education-in-forestry-program> for more information or contact: bara.ruth@yale.edu

March 21, 2012: Invasive Species Program is being sponsored by the University of Maryland Extension at Carroll Community College in Westminster, MD on the first floor in Building K. Please go to: carrollcc.edu for more information.

March 22-24, 2012: Society for Ecological Restoration Mid-Atlantic Conference: Restoration on the Edge is being held at Brooklyn College. The provocative theme: "Restoration on the Edge: Exploring the Frontiers of Restoration, Collaboration, and Resilience in Changing Ecosystems." For more information, go to: www.ser.org/midatl

April 24—27, 2012: Weeds Across Borders (WAB) 2012—“Meeting the Challenges of the Future” is being held in Cancun, Mexico. WAB is an international conference covering the interests of professionals and organizations involved in weed management and regulation. For more information, please go to: <http://www.weedcenter.org/wab/2012/index.html> or send an email to: weedsacrossborders2012@gmail.com

Preventing the Introduction and Spread of Invasive Weeds

Workshop 2012: The U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, California Department of Food and Agriculture, UC Cooperative Extension and the California Invasive Plant Council is hosting and sponsoring this workshop in California during the following dates, times and locations:

Los Angeles: Thursday, March 8, 2012; 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Sonora: Monday, April 9, 2012; 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Truckee: Wednesday, May 2, 2012; 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Participants will gain an understanding of how to incorporate prevention, best management practices and guidelines into work in the construction, aggregate production and maintenance fields. Valuable resource and materials, available at the workshop will assist participants in environmental stewardship planning and saving money by stopping invasive weeds before they move into a new area.

May 1-2, 2012: 2012 AGRICULTURE STAKEHOLDER CONFERENCE: PESTS, PATHWAYS, AND PARTNERSHIPS is being held at the APHIS Headquarters in Riverdale, MD. Conference announcements, including registration information, will be sent out through the Stakeholder Registry in mid February. Space is limited so early registration is recommended. For more information please contact Melonie Torillo at (301) 851-2269 (Melonie.J.Torillo@aphis.usda.gov)

May 2-3, 2012: Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force (ANSTF) Meeting is being held at the O'Callaghan Annapolis Hotel in Annapolis, MD. A block of rooms has been reserved under ANS TASK FORCE for \$116.00 plus tax/night. The block will be released on April 1, 2012. Make your reservations by calling O'Callaghan's at (410) 263-7700/toll free: (866) 782-9624.

May 21-25, 2012: Invasive Species Advisory Committee (ISAC) Meeting is being held at the Benson Hotel in Portland, OR. Further information will be made available at: <http://invasivespecies.gov/>

June 19—21, 2012: The Fifth Sudden Oak Death (SOD) Science Symposium (Call for Papers) is being held at the Sheraton Sonoma County in Petaluma, CA. It will provide a scientific update on the state of our knowledge about Phytophthora ramorum and SOD.

August 20—22, 2012: International Terrestrial Invasive Plant Species Conference—TIPS 2012—“Understanding Plant Invasions in a Changing World” will take place at the Delta Waterfront Hotel in Sault Ste. Marie, Canada.

October 8-11, 2012: 18th Australasian Weeds Conference 2012 is being held at The Sebel and Citigate Albert Park, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia. Poster abstract submission has been extended until March 30, 2012. Please go to: <http://www.18awc.com/> for more information.

Miscellaneous

The Weed's News Digest is available online. Please go to: <http://invasivespecies.org.au>